Regional Development and Policy – Challenges, Choices and Recipients

Regional Studies Association

THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND RESEARCH

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Gateway W2

HOW TO CAPTURE MOBILE KNOWLEDGE IN TOURISM SECTOR? CO-(R)REVOLUTION OF RUSSIAN TOURISTS AND HIGHLY INDIVIDUAL PLACES (HIP) IN ANTALYA

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In this paper the conceptual framework of knowledge dynamics is examined through the lenses of a case study, namely Antalya region - a well-known touristic destination in Turkey. Tourism sector encloses knowledge intensive activities most of which represent informal, relational, unrecorded, and people embedded characteristics, and are not dependent on formal education, science and learning processes (Halkier, 2005, 2006). The recent transformation of tourism sector in Antalya is related to the differentiation of 'tourist profile' since 1990s and the consequent emergence of luxurious (HIP) hotels. Following the 1989 Revolution, the income growth in former Soviet Countries, particularly in Russia, has radically changed the incoming tourists; hence instead of classic German-Britons the leading nationality has turned to be Russians. The rapid transformation has caused the exploitation of knowledge without any knowledge generation. Besides, the dominance of symbolic knowledge (Asheim and Coenen, 2005) in tourism pushes exploration phase to the background compared to technical innovations (Crevoisier and Jeannerat, 2008). This rapid transformation has been faster that public policy regulations and has been implemented by private actors. Following the emergence of luxurious hotels, stemming from the demand of wealthy Russian tourist instead of middle-class German-Briton tourists, through the support of central government by land allocation a new diffusion and growth strategy in which the construction, management and operation of hotels by an individual or a group has developed in the form of becoming widespread. With the new business strategy, the HIP hotels that are transferred through political relations and that have principle roles in this process, constitute a customer oriented structure that combines different types of knowledge such as child-care, animation, cuisine, SPA, all of which simultaneously appear with the rapid rise of Russian tourists. However when fundamental dynamics are concerned, not only the political actors but also extra-regional (even extra-national) actors play crucial roles in this transformation. Correspondingly this generates extra-regional distance knowledge mobility (Crevoisier and Jeannerat, 2008). This, in turn, confirms the need for multi-local, multi-actor and multi-scalar relationship in order to create a difference (differentiation policy) in tourism sector (Doz, Santos and Williamson, 2004). Consequently, this study examining the knowledge dynamics in tourism sector in Antalya region presents some striking findings about the types (Asheim and Isaksen, 2008) and phases (Cooke, 2005) of knowledge dynamics and knowledge mobility. There are three fundamental non-technical knowledge dynamics: business models, customer service-related knowledge, and on-site-services. Therefore, these knowledge dynamics encompass various actors from separate countries and depend on reciprocal exchange and/or bilateral transfers of symbolic knowledge. Hence face-to-face relations are very important in this knowledge dynamic since the symbolic knowledge depends on actors rather than the knowledge itself. It can be claimed that successful organizations in this knowledge dynamic are the ones who can rapidly reach symbolic knowledge via labour mobility. In connection with knowledge processes, it may be argued that the defined knowledge processes (Halkier, 2006) function but exploration and examination phases are very short, occasionally almost absent.

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HUMAN RIGHTS: THE EFFECT OF NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

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We examine the geo-political and international spatial aspects of human rights (HR), using a purpose-designed data-set. Applying empirical tools from the trade literature, we analyse the impact on a country's HR performance of geographical proximity to its neighbours. Unlike previous studies, our approach treats this as partly endogenous: one country's HR performance will affect its neighbours through a variety of potential geographical spillover mechanisms.We start with simple descriptive accounts, using maps and scatter plots, of the geographic history of HR performance. Using a relatively simple spatial-weighting model approach we